

Victory over Sin
Title: ~~Led~~ by the Spirit of God

Text: Romans 8:5-17

Take your Bibles, please, and open them to Romans chapter 8. Romans chapter 8 beginning with verse 5 and raeading through verse 17.

(Read Romans 8:5-17)

Prayer

(4B) Last Sunday we began the fourth principle of God's righteousness. And that is the principle of security. The security of the believer.

(1C) And the first thing that we are looking at in these first 17 verses of Romans 8 is the security that comes to us by the presence of the H.S... The doctrine of the H.S. is one of the most fundamental things that you can learn as a believer. It is fundamental to your christian experience and to your christian effectiveness.

(1D) Last week, in the first four verses, we looked at the matter of security as to the rightoeousness of the law. That is the first issue of security given to us by the H.S.

O.K. Paul, first of all, talks about the righteousness of the law. That is the first issue of security given to us by the Holy Spirit.

(2D) Now, the second issue, beginning with Vs 5, deals with the reality of our old sin nature. This is a real tough problem. But it is something we all have to face. We have an old sin nature. And Paul discusses this in verses 5 through 13. And he, again, is going to apply security to us. To help us to understand this problem.

There are two things that I want you to see here.

(1E) First of all in verses 5 to 8, Paul gives us a contrast between the flesh and the Spirit. There is a definite contrast between the two. And Paul contrast this in three areas.

(1F) First of all in Verse 5, as to the matter of our thought life. There is a contrast between the flesh and the spirit. Helping us to see the reality of the Old sin nature and what to do about it....Our thought life... Vs 5 says..."for those who are according to the flesh set their minds(there is your thought life) set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, ~~from~~ the things of the Spirit."

Isn't that interesting? Why do people think the way they do? God answers it...At least for believers here is the way you think. If you are thinking the thoughts of the flesh in the old sin nature, you are after the flesh. You are walking carnally.

When you are walking under the control of the Holy Spirit you are thinking the thoughts of the Holy Spirit. That is pretty neat.

(2F) Now, the second area in which you see a contrast is the consequences.

This is found in Vs 6. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace."

Now, right at this point, ~~and those of you who have studied Romans before know that from here on there is a great problem.~~ *you have* ^{you} *and I want you to listen very careful.* And that is the meaning of the terms "life" and "death". Because it makes all the difference in the world as to whether you think Paul is talking about a believer, and a non-believer, or, about two believers. One of whom is carnal and the other is spiritual....

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Now, what does Paul mean by "life and death?" Is he talking about physical life and physical death?

Look down at Vs 13. You have the same problem. "For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die."...Un-believer, or, believer?... "but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live."....

Now, I say to you in contrast to many people who believe other wise, that if that is referring to physical life and death, it doesn't make any sense at all. Because the last phrase of Vs 13 is not true. I don't have to put off the deads of my body in order to live physically. Why I can live physically and be involved in sin. *you see* It doesn't made any sense at all.

The issues here are not physical life and death. But it is referring to your life, now, as you live as to whether it is dead, meaning ineffective, or to whether it is alive, meaning abundant and fruitful.

The issue here is the control of the flesh and the control of the Spirit That is very important. [So, let's get back to verse 6. The consequences as we look at the life that is control by either the flesh or the spirit. If you are controled by the flesh, carnal, mindedness, the result is death. Meaning, a total wipe out in terms of a spiritual victory. You are ineffective, you are frustrated, you are ~~deflected~~ *defeated*, and you are discouraged.

But, secondly, if you are spiritually minded, the result is life. *→ Joy Victory over sin* John wrote in John 7 that the Holy Spirit is like ~~an artinsion well~~ an artinsion well. It is just springing up, wells of water *of* life. Jesus said that I have come that you might have abundant life.

God wants you to have abundant, effective victorious life. [And by the way, the last word of Vs 6 helps to explain that he is talking about the quality of life, not physical life and death. Because he adds to the word "life" the word "peace." And oh, boy, is that every a quality of the H.S.'s control...PEACE..The conflict that has been waring on is settled. And the product of the Spirit is now, peace.

But if you are thinking the thoughts of the flesh, the result is wipe-out. But if you are thinking the thoughts of the Spirit there is life *and victory, and peace - The conflict has been settled.*

(3F) Now, the third area in which you see this contrast is the matter of our responses to God.....Vs 7 and 8....(Read Vs 7)

Boy, you ought to think about that the next time you ~~try~~ ^{sin} to obey ~~the~~ ^{the} law. "The mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God." "It does not subject itself to the law of God."

(Read Vs 8)

There is not a thing you can do that will please God. So, even in our response to God, the flesh is unable to respond to God. It just can't. It can't please God. It can't obey the law of God. "And it is really against God."

Do you ever wonder why people are bitter at what God is causing in their life? Especially if they are a believer?

Simple answer. This doesn't answer all the particulars. But the simple answer is that you are walking after the flesh..... We are bitter against God at what he is causing in our life. We are walking carnally and not spiritually. If we were walking under the control of the H.S. there would be understanding and response to God. When we are not, there isn't.

Our sin nature

(2E) Now, the second thing we want to look at as to the reality of ~~the flesh~~, we see, first of all the contrast between flesh and spirit, now, beginning with Vs 9 to Vs 13 we want to look at the victory of the spirit over the flesh. The victory of the spirit over the flesh. And Paul gives to us three things, here, to show us that the victory has already occurred. And can be in reality true of you in every day life. You can have victory over the ~~flesh~~ ^{sin} through the Holy Spirit of God.

(1F) First, it involves the presence of the Spirit, again. The presence of the Holy Spirit...Vs 9.....(Read Vs 9)

So, Paul's point is that the guarantee of having victory over ~~the flesh~~ ^{sin} is based upon the real presence of the H.S. in your life. If you have the Spirit in your life you are already on the road to victory. If you are a believer you already ~~got~~ ^{have} a guaranteed victory.

of course, If you are an unbeliever, there is no hope at all, ~~of course~~. So, that is important to start with. The presence of the H.S. in you. §

set straight

Christian

Now, there is something that you should ~~note~~ at this point. Have you noticed the phrase "in the flesh" and the phrase "after the flesh"?... It has been going on throughout this passagae. Now, who is the one ⁱⁿ in the flesh?" The only one in the flesh is an unbeliever. ~~Being~~ totally in the realm of the flesh. That is an unbeleiver. That is why he said in Vs 9, ^{To} "you are not in the flesh but in the sirit."

^{Let's keep} ~~leave~~ ~~make~~ those two thing clear in your mind. If you are in the Spirit, you can walk after the Spirit or walk after the flesh. The choise is yours.

But if you are "in the flesh," there is only one way you can walk. And that is after the flesh. You cannot walk after the Spirit because you are an unbeliever. SO, ARE YOU SAVED OR NOT? That is the first thing.

(2F) Secondly, it involves the power of the H.S. And Paul gives us an illustration of that power. This is verse 10 and 11....(Read Vs 10)

This takes us back to chapter 6. You have been declared righteous by God. Therefore the H.S. ^{who} is now in you, as a believer, can produce an effective life. And here is the illustration....Vs 11....(Read Vs 11)

Listen carefully....The last phrase is not talking about our future physical resurrection. Even though that is true...Paul is not saying that the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead is the one who at the last day is going to raise your body from the dead. That is true! ^{Another context} But that is not what Paul is sayiag ^{here, in this context}

Again, remember "life" and "death" in the context. The point is: that the same power to raise Christ from the dead is living in you ^{not power} as a believer. And can give life to what is a dead body because of sin. Sin makes us dead, uneffective and unfruitful. But the Spirit, who is now in you, has the power illustrated by the resurection of Christ, to give you life right now. And that is really exciting....

(3F) That is why in Vs 12 we find the application. And that is the third thing invvolving our practice in our daily life. Vs 12 and 13.

We can live in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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By the way, before we look at ~~that~~, what do you suppose is the number one reason why people don't believe in ~~that~~ ^{the} power of the Holy Spirit? What is the reason for that? If I ask you, "Do you believe in the power of the Holy Spirit being in you now? The same power that rose Christ from the dead?" If you were a christian and you know something of the Word you would probably say "YES."

But ~~you~~ ^{you are} maybe like the practical atheist. A practical atheist is one who believes in God, if he were pushed, but the way he lives proves that he ignores and neglects God in his life. He just doesn't want anything to do with it. And Christians are often like that. They believe that the Spirit of God is in them, that He has power, but they don't see it happening.

So, what is the number one reason why we can't believe this? ^{Answer} Because most of what we have seen has been the power of the flesh. And so we have considered that as being normal. You are setting here hearing a message like this and you say, "Well, that is nice. You know, wonderful."

But I have never seen anything different in my life. Things have gone on as they have. ~~I~~ I have seen the control of the flesh. I know that I sin and I have problems. So, the continued evidence of the power of the flesh convinces us that what the Bible is talking about concerning the power of the Spirit is not as real as we think it is....

Now, ~~I don't believe that you think like that, and I think like that, then blame me.~~ ^{But you know} ~~And~~ the solution is simple. ^{start} We must believe the Word of God. Because if I believe what I see and experience then I willn't believe the Word of God. But praise God I have also seen and experienced what the Word of God says. The power of the Holy Sprit is real. It is very real. People be very careful. [Do you know what the enemy, Satan, would really love this morrowing? For you to walk out of this service not believing that this could really happen in your life. He would love you to believe that

Now, what we are talking about is a powerful christian lif~~ee~~. A life under the control of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now, Paul is talking about our praictice in Vs 12 and 13. If you really believe in the power of the Spirit, Paul says in Vs 12 "So then brethren, we are under obligation, not to ~~the~~ flesh, ~~to~~ to live according to the flesh."

And Vs 13 is the Key... Notice what it says... "for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die. Again in the context it means that your life is ineffective...." But if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will ~~live~~ ^{live}"

How can I live this powerful, effective, spirit filled life? By putting to death the deeds of the body.

You are not going to put to death the thoughts. Please remember that. Every now and then someone will come along and say, "You know, if you think it in your heart you have already done it. And there is no difference ~~the~~ between the two."

And people often base that conclusion on what Jesus said when he remained us about the depth of the law when he said: "If you look upon a woman and lust after her you have already committed adultery. Or, if you hate in your heart you have already committed murder.

But Jesus never taught that thinking it is as bad as doing it. The Bible teaches that do it is worse... The deeds of the body.

In Galations 5 we read about the works of the flesh. And they ~~are~~ ^{are} presented as acutral deeds of the body. That is the important matter.

And in Romans 6:13 you, again, have the idea of "yielding". Yielding meaning "standing along side of". Whatever you present yourself along side of, you will become a slave of that. So, don't blame anybody put yourself. If you stand along side of sin, sin will control you. If you stand along side of God and His word, the word will control you.

Paul says, "put to death the deeds of the body." If you gontinue to do that thing which you know is wrong, you are ^{sin} ~~becomeing~~ ^{then} becoming a slave to ~~it~~ ^{that sin}, and the Spirit of God is not controlling you. And you will not experience His power until stop doing ~~it~~ ^{that sin}

And Paul is saying that we who were once slaves to sin and children of the devil, have been adopted, now, as sons of God...HOW? Through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Listen, if you don't have the Holy Spirit you are not a ~~believer~~ ^{Christian}. And the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of adoption. The very spirit that places you as a son. ^{God Wanted me To tell you this} the moment you accept Christ, you are now a son of God. And this relationship is so close according to Vs 15 you could cry "Abba! Father!".

And the word "Abba" simple means "daddy". And the word speaks to this close relationship that exists between God and the believer. It talks about the nearness of your position to the heart of God. ~~Isn't that wonderful?~~ Abba! Father!

(26) The second thing that I want you to see is in Vs 16 and that is the ^{Conviction} ~~persuasion~~ that we really are in the family of God. This ^{Conviction} ~~persuasion~~ is part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit. ^{in your life} Vs 16 says "the Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Isn't that wonderful? That wonderful security and encouragement. I am a child of God.

(36) If that doesn't excite you, look at Vs 17. And notice our possessions that we have as members of God's family. Vs 17 says "and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow-heirs with Christ."

Everything that belongs to Christ belongs to us. "If indeed we suffer with Him." Now, what is the suffering in the context? That is not talking about getting sick this week or going to the hospital. It is talking about the context which is the suffering that a Christian experiences when the flesh and the spirit war inside of us.

The point is: what an encouragement. If indeed we suffer, I am ~~reminded~~ reminding you that you are an heir of God that one day, says the last part of Vs 18, "we will be glorified with him."

Glorified with Christ! Tremendous! Now, we have a conflict of suffering ^{The old nature against the new nature} But be assured of the fact that just as you have experienced suffering, you will also experience being glorified and receiving all of the inheritance that God wants to give you as a son.

The Bible tells us that God has not given us the spirit of fear,
but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

(Let's close with prayer)

Every Head bowed, all eyes closed.

Do you have this assurance?